



PROJECT: Michigan City Harbor and Trail Creek , Michigan City, Indiana

AUTHORIZATION: 1927 R&H Act, Section 107 1960 R&H Act, WRDA 1986 and 1996

DESCRIPTION: The authorized navigation project at Michigan City Harbor and Trail Creek is experiencing increased sedimentation. This combined with below-average Lake Michigan water levels is creating obstructions for recreational boat traffic. The outer harbor and localized highly shoaled areas at Trail Creek were dredged in FY00. At the outer harbor, dredge material is fine sand and is typically suitable for open water placement. At Trail Creek, sampling and testing completed in FY00 showed that the dredge material is fine silty sand and sandy silt containing moderate levels of contaminants typically associated with urban runoff and combined sewer overflows: metals, nutrients and polynuclear aromatics (PNAs), and is therefore not suitable for open water placement. In FY00 the Trail Creek dredge material was disposed of at nearby Deercroft Landfill where the material was dried and used for alternate daily cover. The estimated volume of remaining dredge material in the Trail Creek federal channel is approximately 70,000 cubic yards, with an additional approximately 70,000 cubic yards in the adjacent slips.

FY 01 WORK (\$1,206,000)

- Continue work necessary for dredging entrance channel, Turning Basin No. 1 and Trail Creek channel
- Soundings of outer harbor
- Sediment sampling and testing of outer harbor
- Prepare design to repair east breakwater, section N

FY02 WORK (\$1,495,000)

- Continue dredging of entrance channel, Turning Basin No. 1 and Trail Creek channel
- Dredge outer harbor and channel up to entrance of Washington Park marina
- Initiate repairs of east breakwater, section N

PROJECT COSTS: N/A

PROJECT COMPLETION: N/A

LOCAL SPONSORS: Michigan City Port Authority. Advisor-Partners: Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM); Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Lake Michigan Field Office (IDNR)

ISSUES/CONCERNS:

The windows for completing the dredging are limited by IDNR fish stocking of Trail Creek to one 30-day period in mid-summer, and to the winter months when marine work is severely hindered by freezing temperatures. The project confined disposal facility has been closed, and Deercroft Landfill, the site used for disposal of the dredge material in FY00, is slated for closure within a year. The local sponsor, who is responsible for the costs of dredging and dredge material disposal from the slips, and for cost-sharing of the disposal of dredge material from the federal channel, is actively pursuing identifying a low or no cost upland disposal location.